

Message Text

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SUBJECT : OECD 1974 PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET

1. BEGIN SUMMARY . DURING INITIAL COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS ON 1974 PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET, FRENCH DELEGATE PROPOSED FISHERIES COMMITTEE, TOURISM COMMITTEE AND QUARTERLY OECD AGRICULTURAL REVIEW AS LOWER PRIORITY ACTIVITIES THAT COULD BE ABOLISHED. TOURISM AND PERHAPS FISHERIES STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES WOULD BE CONTINUED. FRENCH DEL'S PROPOSALS REFERRED TO BUDGET COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION AND SUBSEQUENT COUNCIL ACTION.

ACTION, REQUESTED : REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS PARA 8 PRIOR BUDGET COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS IN EARLY NOVEMBER . END SUMMARY.

2. IN COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS MANY DELEGATIONS (CANADA, DENMARK, FRANCE, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, UK AND US) FAVORED RESTRICTION OF PERMANENT STAFF POSITIONS AT OR NEAR PRESENT LEVEL WITH EMPHASIS ON RESOURCES FOR NEW ACTIVITIES BEING DRAWN FROM LOWER PRIORITY ACTIVITIES. FRENCH AMB. VALERY ONLY DELEGATE PROPOSING ABOLITION OF

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SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES.

3. FISHERIES COMMITTEE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE : VALERY, WHO SAID HE WAS SPEAKING ON PERSONAL BASIS, CLAIMED THAT COMMITTEES PRIME FUNCTION APPEARS BE PREPARATION ANNUAL REPORTS AND DEAL WITH MINIMAL NUMBER OF PROBLEMS THAT HAVE REAL POLICY SUBSTANCE. IN ADDITION QUESTIONED RETENTION ACTIVITIES WHERE GOVERNMENTS APPARENTLY HAVE LITTLE DESIRE CONDUCT POLICY DISCUSSIONS AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. HE PROPOSED CONTINUATION OF STATISTICAL REPORTS IN THESE AREAS IF CARRIED OUT ELSEWHERE IN ORGANIZATION OR WITH DRASTICALLY REDUCED STAFF. IN FIRST ROUND DISCUSSIONS, STRONG SUPPORT VOICED FOR CONTINUATION OF FISHERIES COMMITTEE BY ICELAND AND NORWAY AND TOURISM COMMITTEE BY NORWAY, AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND. NO IMMEDIATE SUPPORT EXPRESSED FOR VALERY'S PROPOSED CUTS, PROBABLY IN PART OWING LACK OF PREPARATION. IN EXEC COMMITTEE, CANADA AND US SUPPORTED GENERAL ATTITUDE UNDERLYING VALERY'S APPROACH AND US EXPRESSED TENTATIVE VIEW VALUE OF OECD TOURISM ACTIVITIES WOULD BE ALMOST AS GREAT TO US ON REDUCED BASIS SUGGESTED BY FRENCH DEL AS ON PRESENT BASIS.

4. AGRICULTURAL REVIEW : VALERY QUESTIONED NEED FOR ORGANIZATION TO BEAR CHARGES FOR THIS PUBLICATION WHICH TENDED BE COLLECTION OF ARTICLES PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED ELSEWHERE. NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON THIS ITEM SINCE MOST DELEGATIONS WOULD NEED SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM END-USERS OF PUBLICATION.

5. RESOURCES INVOLVED : FISHERIES COMMITTEE, FIVE PERMANENT POSITIONS, TOTAL BUDGET OF 500.800 FRANCS, TOURISM COMMITTEE, THREE PERMANENT POSITIONS, TOTAL BUDGET OF 239.000 FRANCS, AGRICULTURAL REVIEW, ONE PERMANENT POSITION, TOTAL BUDGET 141.000 FRANCS.

6. SINCE MISSION HAS TRADITIONALLY URGED ORGANIZATION TO OFFSET RESOURCES NEEDED FOR NEW HIGH PRIORITY ACTIVITIES BY REDUCTION IN LOWER PRIORITY ACTIVITIES, WE SEE DEFINITE MERIT IN FRENCH PROPOSAL THAT FOCUSES ATTENTION ON CONTINUATION SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES. ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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REALIZE THAT EACH OF THESE ACTIVITIES HAS SOME FERVENT SUPPORT. MISSION'S VIEW IS THAT TOURISM PROGRAM COULD WELL BE CUT BACK AS VALERY PROPOSED, AND THAT AGRICULTURAL REVIEW SHOULD BE REEVALUATED TO SEE IF IT CANNOT BE MADE TO PAY FOR ITSELF AND, IF NOT, TO SEE IF IT COULD NOT BE ABOLISHED WITH MAJOR ORIGINAL AGRICULTURAL ARTICLES BEING INCORPORATED INTO THE OECD OBSERVER.

7. DELEGATION ALSO FEELS SOME REDUCTION POSSIBLE IN FISHERIES PROGRAM BUT WE FAVOR REDIRECTION OF EFFORT TOWARD OVERALL FISHERIES POLICY RATHER THAN ABOLITION AS PROPOSED BY THE FRENCH. MISSION POSITION BASED PRIMARILY ON GROWING IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AFFAIRS AND BELIEF THAT AS SUCH THEY ARE PRIME SUBJECTS FOR OECD REVIEW.

8. REQUEST WASHINGTON INTER-AGENCY ANALYSIS RELATIVE PRIORITY IMPORTANCE OF ABOVE ACTIVITIES TO USG AND ADVICE AS TO LIMIT OF SUPPORT THAT MAY BE GIVEN TO FRENCH PROPOSALS.BROWN

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